



# MEETING MINUTES

**Date of Meeting:** January 27, 2015

**Location:** Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Headquarters (900 S. Fremont Ave. Alhambra, CA)

**Subject:** Steering Committee No. 5

**Project Name:** Los Angeles County Floodplain Management Plan Update

**In Attendance:** **Steering Committee:** Martin Araiza, John Blalock, Connie Chung (phone, attended for Mark Child), Eduardo Escobar (attended for George De La O), Loni Eazell, Scott Gardner, Michael Hart, Frank Lopez, Lisa Naslund, Debbie Sharpton (phone), and Hu Yi  
**Planning Team:** Michael Chen, Jeff Li, Ira Artz, Rob Flaner, Sara Townsend and Kristen Gelino  
**Non-voting Attendees and Coordinating Agencies:** Joe Bellomo, Josie Gutierrez, and Salomon Miranda

**Not Present:** Okorie Ezieme and Kendra Pospychalla

**Summary Prepared by:** Kristen Gelino – 2/3/2015

**Project No.:** 103IS3293/T32834

**Quorum – Yes or No** Yes (11 voting members present)

Item	Action
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## Welcome and Introductions

- Hu Yi opened the meeting and facilitated group introductions.
- The Agenda was reviewed and no modifications were made.
- Handouts provided included: Agenda; December Steering Committee Meeting Minutes; Mission, Goals and Objectives Handout; and Draft Plan Maintenance Strategy.
- The December Steering Committee Meeting Minutes were reviewed. Connie Chung indicated that she had attended the December meeting via phone and was not listed as in attendance. Kristen apologized for the oversight and will correct the meeting minutes. The December Steering Committee Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously as amended.
- No requests for comment were made.

Kristen will amend the December meeting minutes as requested.



Item	Action
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### **Review of Mission, Goals and Objectives**

Rob indicated that the mission, goals and objectives handout reflects the statements that have been discussed and approved by the Steering Committee at previous meetings. The next step in this process will be to develop actions. It is likely that a draft action plan will be available for comment at the February or March meeting.

### **Risk Assessment Update**

Rob provided a brief review of the risk assessment conducted thus far and gave a brief overview of the flood HAZUS model. He described how this model has been used at the informational open houses through the HAZUS workstations.

A committee member asked about attendance at the meetings thus far and Rob indicated that there has been an average of about 8-10 people per meeting. Although attendance has not been robust, the residents that have been attending have been very engaged and the planning team has been able to provide them with useful information. Rob also explained that the two main objectives of the first round of meetings are to identify perceptions of risk and to identify areas of concern. He explained that the County has elected to develop a Program for Public Information (PPI) as part of this planning process. Rob briefly explained that a PPI is a program for continued engagement and outreach and indicated that the planning team is working on developing this program and will provide more information at future meetings. The planning team will use lessons learned from the plan development process to guide the strategies in the PPI.

Rob indicated that the planning team has received the critical facility dataset that was used for the County's hazard mitigation plan and has started that portion of the risk assessment. He also indicated that the planning team has received some dam failure inundation maps. The planning team will need to determine if an analysis of this information should be conducted as part of this planning process and if an analysis is to be conducted, which dams will be assessed. If the planning team elects to move forward with the analysis, the inundation maps will not be published in the plan. An aggregated assessment of risk would be presented.



Item	Action
<b><u>Phase 1 Public Involvement Strategy</u></b>	
Sara indicated that we have held the first three informational open houses and the fourth open house is scheduled for the end of February:	
Saturday, February 21, 2015 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm Lancaster Library 601 W. Lancaster Blvd. Lancaster, CA 93534	
Sara reported that the planning team has been mailing postcards to residents in the floodplain in advance of each open house. She also indicated that the planning team is still working to schedule a fifth meeting in southern Los Angeles.	The planning team will provide additional details on the remaining open houses as they become available.
A committee member asked if the issues identified on the maps at the Malibu Lake Mountain Club open house had been addressed. Rob indicated that the issues identified have been corrected.	
Sara then provided a brief overview of the phase II public outreach meetings, which will be held in the spring. She explained that the meetings are different than the first round of meetings in that the planning team will be presenting the draft plan. The second round of meetings are often held as part of another public meeting, such as a planning commission meeting, and the committee should send any recommendations to the planning team.	The Steering Committee should send any recommendations for phase II meetings to the planning team.
A committee member asked how property information is accessed in the HAZUS work stations. Rob indicated that property information is provided by address. Kristen indicated that the assessor identification number (AIN) is also included in the data set. In response there was a brief discussion regarding if this data set could or should be made available in an online data platform and the concept of residual risk.	
<b><u>Plan Maintenance Strategy</u></b>	
Rob introduced the plan maintenance strategy and provided a general overview of the CRS requirements for plan maintenance. He indicated that part of the plan maintenance process will be to compile an annual	



Item	Action
progress report on the actions identified by the plan. This report must be completed by October every year as part of the annual certification process. The draft strategy has been provided to the Steering Committee for comment. The strategy recommends that the progress report be presented to and vetted through a committee. The committee does not necessarily need to be the same steering committee that is overseeing the plan development, but will likely have some members of the current steering committee.	The Steering Committee should review the draft plan maintenance strategy and provide any comments to Kristen.

### **Strengths, Weaknesses, Obstacles, Opportunities (SWOO)**

Rob and Kristen introduced the concept of a “SWOO” session, which is a brainstorming session that identifies strengths, weaknesses, obstacles and opportunities for floodplain management in the planning area. Rob explained that the CRS requires communities to review a comprehensive range of alternatives during the identification of actions. After the SWOO concept was introduced, the Steering Committee engaged in a SWOO session. The results of this SWOO session will help meet this requirement by providing a holistic, internal look at the County’s floodplain management activities. The results of the brainstorming session will be used to supplement a “mitigation catalog,” which will provide ideas and concepts for flood mitigation broken down by scale: personal, corporate and governmental. This catalog will become a component of the planning document.

The Steering Committee should send any additional thoughts or comments on the SWOO session to Kristen.

The notes from the SWOO session can be found on the next page.

### **Action Items for Next Meeting**

The action items identified during the meeting were reviewed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 PM

The next Steering Committee meeting is:

**February 24, 2015 at 10:30 AM**

**Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Works – Headquarters  
(Conference Room D)**

**900 S. Fremont Ave., Alhambra, CA 91803**



Results of SWOO Brainstorming Session	
Item	SWOO
Controlling sediment	W, OB
Identifying sediment management strategies	OP
Post-fire outreach for sediment management	OP
Existing booklets	S
Diversifying booklets for other topics	OP
Floodplain mapping accuracy and extent	W, OB, OP
Politics	OB, OP
Interest and public awareness of flood hazards	W, OB, OP
Inadvertent creation of flood risk by land owners or developers	OB, OP
Incorporating water conservation	OP
Cooperation between agencies and stakeholders	S
Further identifying partnerships	OP
Formation of flood control district (FCD)	S
FCD could be a taxing entity to generate funding	S, OP
Future funding needs are not met	W, OP
Holistic floodplain management, DPW identifies many options for preserving or enhancing natural floodplain function	S
Stormwater capture	OP
AAA bond rating	S
Drought conditions vs. flooding potential	OB
Drought vs. flood as a nexus for public education	OP
Strong disclosure law for home purchase	S



Results of SWOO Brainstorming Session	
Item	SWOO
Lack of enforcement of disclosure law through ordinance or use of resale property report	W
Improve disclosure enforcement	OP
Emphasis on “flash” flood as a way to clarify desert conditions, provide mapping	W, OP
Leadership in obtaining natural areas within floodplain under County’s stormwater plan	S
Mapping and complete inventory of open spaces difficult due to size of County	OB, OP
County’s new development guidelines include strong codes	S
Developers may lobby against and find ways around codes	W, OB, OP
Guidelines for floodplain fringe protections	S, OP
Increased freeboard regulations	OP
Climate change reflected in code	W
Code needs updating	OP
Buildable lands analysis	OP
Strong CRS to build on	S, OP
Endangered Species Act protected species within the County	OB, OP
Invasive species management	OB, OP
Emergency services and public awareness of emergency preparedness	W, OP
Interagency coordination for emergency preparedness and response	W, OP
CERT Teams	S, OP
Early warning systems	W, OP
Hotspots	OP
<b>Note:</b> S = Strength, W = weakness, OB = obstacle, OP = opportunity	